

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 251358Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2472

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09446

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UK, FR, PFOR

SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEWS ON ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, JULY 19

REF: PARIS 17810

SUMMARY - BRITISH WERE SATISFIED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE ISSUES WITH FRENCH. NOTHING MOMENTOUS WAS EXPECTED; NOTHING MOMENTOUS WAS ACHIEVED. HMG IS LAME DUCK AND FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS AFFECTING ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IN BRITAIN. END SUMMARY

1. KEN JAMES, HEAD, WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPT, FCO, HAS GIVEN US RUNDOWN ON ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT MEETINGS IN PARIS JULY 19. HIS ACCOUNT OF CALLAGHAN-SAUVAGNARGUES MEETING SQUARES WITH ACCOUNT GIVEN REFTEL. HE DID NOT HAVE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF WILSON-GISCARD MEETING AND WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DOUBTFUL HE WOULD EVER GET ONE SINCE TWO LEADERS HAD MET

PRIVATELY FOR ONE HOUR AND A HALF WITHOUT AIDES OR INTERPRETERS PRESENT. JAMES CONFIRMED THAT MEETING HAD BEEN HELD ON BRITISH INITIATIVE, BUT DENIED THAT FRENCH HAD EVER BETRAYED RELUCTANCE TO AGREE.

2. IN PREPARING NEGOTIATING BRIEFS FOR WILSON AND CALLAGHAN, FCO PROCEEDED ON ASSUMPTION THAT BRITISH LEADERS SHOULD DEVOTE MEETINGS TO GETTING TO KNOW THEIR COUNTERPARTS, TO EXPLORING ISSUES RATHER THAN SEEKING FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS, AND TO TRYING TO HELP FRENCH UNDERSTAND LABOR GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL ATTITUDES. ON ENERGY, FOR EXAMPLE, SAUVAGNARGUES ARGUED THAT EC MUST DEVELOP ITS OWN POLICY. WITHOUT DEMURRING, CALLAGHAN EXPLAINED THAT UK FAVORED TAKING EXTRA-EC FACTORS (E.G., THE VIEWS OF US AND JAPAN) INTO CONSIDERATION AT AN EARLIER STAGE IN FORMULATION OF EC POLICY.

3. CALLAGHAN SAID HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY WORK OF EC POLITICAL COOPERATION MACHINERY, AND THAT HE WANTED TO SEE THIS COOPERATION DEVELOPED, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN NEW INSTITUTIONAL FORMS. CALLAGHAN ALSO GAVE SAUVAGNARGUES HIS FRANK APPRAISAL OF DIFFICULTIES HMG FACED IN GETTING RENEGOTIATION RESULTS ACCEPTED BY BRITISH PEOPLE. SAUVAGNARGUES SIMPLY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT BRITAIN WAS NEGOTIATING WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING TREATIES AND NOT OBSTRUCTING FUNCTIONING OF EC WHILE DECIDING WHETHER TO STAY IN OR GET OUT.

4. COMMENT: BRITISH APPEAR SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME OF MEETING. THEY HAD NO GREAT PRIOR EXPECTATIONS, AND WERE PLEASED AT CHANCE FOR GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FRENCH. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE THAT HMG IS A LAME DUCK AND THAT MAJOR DECISIONS IN ANGLO-FRENCH AND ANGLO-EC RELATIONS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IN BRITAIN.

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